such as overseas banking units, hedging of commodity risks and external commercial borrowings in the Special Economic Zones; introduction of transparent and simple and transparent procedure for the export promotion schemes, special dispensation to status holders and computerisation of functioning of various agencies related to exports thereby helping in reduction of transaction costs and time. The trade and industry including the apex chambers of commerce have by and large welcomed the new EXIM Policy without any reference to shortcomings.

Research on tobacco seeds

3677. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Tobacco Board has not done substantial propaganda work in other countries on quality of Indian tobacco;

(b) if so, what steps Tobacco Board will take in this regard;

(c) whether Tobacco Board will take up research on providing quality seeds and better cultivation methods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The Tobacco Board has been continuously engaged in efforts to publicise, promote and popularise Indian tobacco in the international market. In addition to participating in international tobacco exhibitions and trade fairs, bringing out advertisements in the international media, etc., the Board has arranged the visits of delegations from major tobacco importing nations in order to increase awareness of the benefits of Indian tobacco. A tobacco trade delegation was also organised to Egypt, Turkey, Rumania and Russia in April 2002 for this purpose.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The responsibility for research and development in FCV tobacco cultivation lies with the Central

Tobacco Research Institute. The Tobacco Board only co-ordinates the transfer of technology and knowledge developed by the Institute to the farmers.

Anti-dumping investigations by China on pathalic anhydride

3678. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has initiated anti-dumping investigations against exports of pathalic anhydride from India;

(b) if so, whether this investigation covers such exports from South Korea and Japan; and

(c) whether India is likely to evolve a joint strategy with Korea and Japan to counter the dumping charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Slapping of import tariff by US on Indian steel

3679. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has slapped high import tariff on steel, affecting India's Steel exports;

(b) whether this move by US also denies access to steel exporters from Japan, South Korea and the European Union;

(c) if so, whether India apprehends large-scale dumping of steel out of floating consignments from Russia, Japan and the European Union into its soil; and

(d) if so, the preventive measures contemplated in this regard?